RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

September 1998

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

FALL NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP

RNA will sponsor its Annual Fall Clean Sweep on **Saturday October 10, 1998**. So mark your calendar and figure out where you hid your work gloves. This semi-annual event affirms our commitment to our neighborhood and the importance these two valuable resources provide our community. Its also a great opportunity to spend a morning with your friends and neighbors.

The days activities are expected to begin at 8:00 a.m. and will initially focus on the cleaning of our two parks: Janet Moore Park at the corner of Cuneo and Ogden Avenues; and Riverview-Fisk Park, bound by Palisade and Ogden Avenues. In addition to the usual symbolic cleaning of the parks, we will also devote effort to repairing some of the benches.

As many gardeners will agree that fall is often the best time for planting; we also plan to spend some time adding shrubbery and trees to both Parks. By planting in the fall, we will be giving the young shrubs and trees an opportunity to establish themselves over the winter months. We are currently looking into suitable replacement shade trees and shrubbery for this project.

As in the past, this fall's clean-up will also include the use of two JCIA dumpsters for the disposal of large household debris. One dumpster will be placed on South Street and another one on the Cuneo Place: both located between Palisade and Ogden Avenues. The dumpsters are free to all residents who follow these rules:

a) only residential garbage,
b) NO CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL,
c) pack dumpster efficiently to maximize space,
d) do not overfill dumpster , and
e) do not leave garbage outside of dumpster.

We hope you will be available to participate in these activities and you will alert your friends and neighbors. If you would like to volunteer to lead a specific activity, please let us know. Our neighbor, Kevin Mahony will be coordinating the day's events for the Association. Please call **Kevin at 798-4676** if you have any questions. We are also looking into sponsorship and/or underwriting opportunities for some of the days activities. So show your pride in our neighborhood and join us **OCTOBER 10th**. For more info, please come to the September 8th meeting.

SUMMER IN OUR PARK

Local residents enjoyed many activities and events in Riverview-Fisk Park this summer. There were music concerts, movies, our annual flea market, National Nite-Out cook-out and show and even a production of Shakespeare. This is the way a community Park should be used by its residents. Positive entertainment bringing people together.

As usual, there was nightly games of basketball and bocci ball. Our children's playground was finally fenced in to protect our youngsters and keep out dogs and unwanted adults. The community garden was full of adults and children planting vegetables and flowers. It was a great success despite the few individuals who vandalized the plots and took the vegetables.

And our Park is still the best place for those who just wanted to sit out on a hot, humid night or enjoy the view of the New York skyline.

Yes, there are problems. People still have to be educated about throwing their garbage and breaking glass on the ground, letting their dogs litter in the grass, drinking alcohol and doing drugs. But the positive elements are pushing out the bad. I want to thank the efforts of our North District NTF officers, the Park rangers, Allison, our park attendant, Joey George and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Recreation and the DPW Park crews.

At our September and October meetings, members will be asked to comment on what they enjoyed and what can be improved in our Park for next year.

MAYOR TO SPEAK & LISTEN TO RNA

Mayor Bret Schundler will be the guest speaker at RNA's Sept. 8th meeting. Topics will range from local concerns such as empty and abandoned housing, the redevelopment of Palisade Avenue, the overdue renovation of the eastern half of Riverview-Fisk Park and the reopening of the cliff behind Ogden Avenue to City-wide issues such as the privatization of the public library, the down-sizing of the Fire Department and the lifting of rent control.

I WAS ROBBED!

On the morning of August 18th, someone broke into my home and stole my property. I was asleep and was suddenly awoken by a burglar tripping over a ladder in my alleyway. I jumped out of bed and screamed at the top of my lungs. I caught sight of a white male with short hair, white tee shirt and white pants and a white sack over his shoulder running in my front yard. I ran outside to the front of my property but I could not find him anywhere.

I called the police and then several of my neighbors. The police were there in about five minutes: one patrol car and one undercover vehicle. I gave them the burglar's description and the plainclothes drove off to look for him.

The two other officers accompanied me back into the house and investigated the scene. The burglar had entered my house from the back of the property. [From the same cliff path that the City - in its infinite wisdom - had recently cleared .] It looked like he scaled one fence and broke through another. Then broke through a screen door .

I spent the morning cancelling all my cards. About two hours later, I received a call from the police that they had retrieved my briefcase. One of the local businesses on Palisade Avenue had found it in their parking lot. It was wet but all there. Except for my wallet. However, one hour later, the police called again and informed me that my wallet had been found on Ravine Road.

Several other items were not found. But that is not the point of this harangue. I have been assaulted. My home has been violated. By some miscreant who was obviously only looking for quick cash and thought nothing of breaking and entering into another person's house in the early hours of the morning.

Over the last couple of months, homes on Ogden Avenue has been hit with numerous break-ins - both north and south of the Park. After one of my neighbors was hit twice, he decided to move out of the neighborhood. "I've had enough and decided to get out of Dodge City!", he said angrily. The police have been working on the problem. They have stepped up patrols and undercover surveillances. It seems the majority of these break-ins have occurred during the day - when the majority of us are not home. It's relatively easy to rob an empty dwelling.

But my burglar hit in the early hours of the morning when I was home and asleep. The police said that they seem to be getting more brazen or more desperate. Either way, these individuals are becoming more dangerous.

I have lived in this neighborhood for fifteen years. Some say this was bound to happen. But was it inevitable? Are we to accept becoming victims because of the plight of others - either economic, social or psychological? Just because someone needs money for whatever reason, should we rationalize their intrusion into our lives?

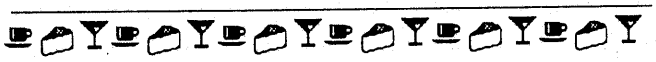
At another place and time, I might have said yes and tried to explain or understand what happened. But right now, I am full of anger. I want to confront this person who dared to trespass on my being. If I could catch him, I would extract revenge. At the very least, I want him caught and tried and convicted and thrown into jail.

Realistically though, we as a community have to protect ourselves against these unacceptable acts against our homes and ourselves. I have tried for many years to organize our community to help each other, look out for our neighbors and be alert to any unfamiliar person or unusual activity. We are our own first line of defense. We have to call the police and inform them of these problems. The police are our second line of defense. They can only be as effective in fighting crime as we allow them to be.

This is a decent neighborhood but it has many problems. Some we can correct. Some we cannot. Crime is one of the problems we can control but it is up to each and every one of us to commit ourselves to this task. Think about it. It isn't time to act?

Vito Brunetti

[I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Police Officers Sullivan, Mike Timmons, F. Kaminski and K. Armstrong and the support of Len and Doris. I would like to thank the people at A& P Electrical on Palisade Avenue for their help.]



HARBOR VIEW PARTY

RNA's annual fall party for the residents of Harbor View Health Care Facility will take place on **Friday, November 20, 1998 at 1:30 PM**. To make this event a big success, we are looking for volunteers to help set-up, bake or bring cake or cookies (sugar-free) and to entertain the residents. This year we are also looking for donations of men or ladies socks and handkerchiefs and lotions in plastic bottles.

As usual, we are planning live musical entertainment for our seniors. However, the most appreciative gift is to spend time talking and listening to these marvelous people. It does wonders to just see their eyes light up when someone spends some quality time with them. They also love to have young children visit and talk to them.

If interested please call **Maria Tuzzo at 659-2245** or speak to Maria, Jack or Valerie at the September meeting.

This is RNA's way of thanking these seniors for allowing us to use their home for our monthly meetings.

Jack Rea

ALLISON, THE GARDEN LADY SAYS:

As you know if you attend the meetings or participate in the community garden, the fruit, vegetables and flowers of our labor are under attack again this harvest season.

Some of the vegetables are being confiscated by people that are truly hungry and some have become projectiles.

These are the solutions I propose:

1) New 1" diamond link fencing around the garden and extensions for posts to increase the height to 6 feet.
2) A new lock for the garden.
3) Come to the garden meetings on Sunday around 7:00 PM and get to know your fellow gardeners. Help Weed! And supervise the younger gardeners. Bring snacks! Break bread! Break a sweat!
4) All plots need to be assigned by me to avoid conflicts. If a gardener cannot keep up with maintaining a plot, then that person should participate in the common gardening areas or try a smaller plot.
5) We need a tool shed.
6) All changes and ideas for the common areas should be discussed with me.
7) Make arrangements with the basketball coach concerning the table and chairs stored in the garden, since the present arrangement has become a problem.

Any other suggestions?

These are the rules I've been relating to the kids:

a) No stepping in other people's garden plots.
b) No yelling or fighting in the garden. (Except ME!)
c) No picking produce from other people's plots.
d) NO JUMPING THE FENCE!!
e) Protect the garden from those who trespass and do harm to the garden.
f) Use tools safely.

MEETING MINUTES: SUMMER, 1998

[The following is a summary of the three meetings RNA held during the summer months of June, July and August.]

June 9, 1998

Ward C Councilman Arnold Bettinger spoke at our meeting and told us how he would work with Kevin Sluka of the DPW on the following items: replace the missing guard rail on New York Avenue; implement the second phase of the Palisade Treescape Program; clean-up the cliff behind on the Belvedere apartment building on Palisade Avenue; supplement the fencing around Moore Park. He also discussed the idea of allowing outdoor cafes to serve liquor.

NTF Police Officers Lorenzo Tosado and Chuck Laziere heard complaints about unleashed dogs in the Park, people barbecuing food in front of their apartments on Palisade Avenue, the repair of vehicles on Griffith Street, and kids vandalizing a garage on Ferry Street between Palisade and Ogden.

A final report was given on our **14th Annual Flea Market** that took place on June 6th. There were 63 vendors and one food vendor. Between the vendors, our own tables and a bike raffle, we took in over $1700.00. After expenses, we cleared approximately $1500.00. RNA would like to thank everyone who took part and helped make this event a great success.

NID Mgr. Laura Petersen discussed the "adopt-a-lot" program, the status of the fire station project slated for Congress and Palisade, the painting of the yellow line on Bowers between Palisade and Ogden. **NID Mgr. Ronald Clemente** was informed about the need to replace stop signs at the corners of Ogden and Franklin and Ogden and Griffith.

There was a discussion about organizing a **dog run** at one of the following locations: the empty lot at Ravine Road and New York Avenue, the open space at the bottom of Mountain Road, the backyard of 454 Palisade Avenue, the triangle between the basketball and bocci courts in Riverview-Fisk Park.

July 14, 1998

Captain Meyers and NTF officers Schnee and Tosado attended our meeting. There was a discussion about the July 4th celebration in the Park and the success of having police assigned to the area for crowd control. A complaint was made about squatters in the boarded up building on the southeast corner of Palisade and Griffith next to Palisade Lumber. Other topics included the rash of break-ins on Ogden Avenue, car radios blasting music on Palisade Avenue and problem dog owners in the Park.

There was a discussion about the implementation of **crosswalks** on Ogden Avenue in Riverview-Fisk Park: either raised and/or painted striping. The locations would be at the basketball court, at the park pavilion and by the children's playground.

Summer activities: Several free movie nites were scheduled in the Park pavilion. The films and projector were donated by the Five Corners Public Library. A suggestion was made for volleyball in the Park.

Finances: RNA will save about $22.00 a month on mailing the newsletter because of its tax-exempt status. Members approved reimbursements for printing and garden supplies.

Members were asked to contribute to the **monthly newsletter** by writing and editing articles and also supplying printing facilities.

August 11, 1998

City representative **Dennis Salerno** discussed the City's recent opening of the cliff path behind Ogden Avenue. The path was opened, on the instructions of Constituent Services, to accommodate the owner of three lots that fronted on to this path.
Mr. Salerno, who was a municipal court judge and now works as an assistant corporation counsel had just visited the site. He explained that the City had sold a tax lien on the lots in question and not the property to the present owners. Because of that distinction, the City was not

under any obligation to provide access to these lots. Mr. Salerno commented that a road for vehicular traffic was physically impossible to build because of the condition of the cliff. Mr Salerno stated that the owner, Eve Krukis is a real estate agent was therefore probably aware of what she had bought and knew before she purchased the land that there was no public access.
The local residents were opposed to the City's action because of the problems of crime and safety in this area. [For a complete discussion of this issue, see "Letters to the Editor" in this newsletter.]

NTF Sgt. Mark Ruby discussed the recent developments in our area. He stated that our two local NTF posts had been merged to make them more effective and manned with some of his most aggressive officers. Fifteen more new officers were going to be added to the North District from the Academy. He introduced P/O Vic Acena to the group. He said they were investigating the daytime burglaries that were still occurring in our neighborhood.

NID Mgr. Ronald Clemente discussed the following complaints: use of fire hydrants as water sprinklers, dog littering, the garbage problem at 202-204 Ogden Avenue, the clean-up and repair of New York Avenue, and the need for a bus stop designation on the southbound side of Griffith and Palisade and a stop sign at the corner of Ogden and Griffith. **NID Mgr. Laura Petersen** discussed: the recent clean-up of Holland Street, cleaning of two catchbasins on Ogden Avenue, the congregation of vagrants hanging out at the corner of Palisade and Congress which is the location of a future fire station project and the need to fence off and remove weeds from the site.

RNA Treasurer Carol Rebelowski announced that our funds had been transferred from Fleet Bank to Provident Bank and combined into one account.

Allison Ferrari Fontana, Secretary

LETTERS to the EDITOR

DO NOT OPEN THE CLIFF ROAD

[Editor's Note: The following is an exchange between RNA and the City concerning the unexpected opening of the cliff road behind Ogden Avenue. The first letter is written by RNA and the second is a response form Timothy Sheridan, Director of Constituent Services. The third letter is a follow-up from Mr. Sheridan with two proposals.]

Dear Mayor Schundler,

Riverview Neighborhood Association is opposed to the opening a road along a section of the Palisade cliffs in the Jersey City Heights. RNA opposes this action on the part of the City because of issues of accountability, public safety, liability, engineering and financing.

It is our position that before anything further is attempted, research should be done to determine: first, if there is a legal obligation to provide this service and second, whether the project is engineering and financially feasible. We also strongly advise prior consultation with the area residents who would be affected. This letter will attempt to summarize the reasons for this position.

The section of cliffs in question is located east of Ogden Avenue and stretches from Mountain Road on the south side (presently under renovation) to Griffith Street on the north side. The new road would provide access to Lots 65, 66 and 67 on Block 750.

This area is essentially abandoned by the City. It is barricaded at its midpoint. Along the entire length of cliff, there are no municipal amenities such as overhead street lighting, guard rails or fences. The City does not pick up garbage, street sweep, snow plow or run fire engines into this area. According to City Engineer Gerald Nissen, this area is in reality a "paper road." Enclosed find an enlarged section of the city's tax map depicting this area.

The first problem that the RNA finds with constructing a road here is limited by the natural rock formation itself. The surface is rocky and not flat and the width varies greatly along its length. The northern section opening onto Griffith Street has always been an unpaved road because it is wide enough for safe vehicular traffic. However, at the midway point erosion has narrowed the road into a series of ledges with widths varying between eight and fifteen feet. Because of these inherent limitations, this area was never made into a proper paved street between Griffith and Mountain Road.

A second vital interest to our residents is public safety. These wild cliffs have had a long history of criminal activity and accidents, including drug use, burglary, prostitution and children falling to their deaths. The ledges seem isolated but they are virtually in the backyards of the Ogden Avenue residents who border them. It can be easy for intruders to approach a house unseen from the rear, jump the fence, commit their crimes and disappear invisibly back into the cliffs.

Yet this area has always been one of low priority for our local police patrols. The northern end is patrolled on an erratic "by complaint only" basis while at the southern end there is literally no policing.

Fortunately, for years the southern ledges have been overgrown with thick briars that have naturally impeded the flow of foot traffic to this area. However, violence increased on nearby Mountain Road which borders these ledges as it awaited renovation. These crimes have included gang attacks, muggings, dog fights and arson. And it is only since the steady increase in violence culminated in both a murder and an attempted murder that the City has finally been finally motivated to renovate the cobblestone Mountain Road. It is a grim reminder that the criminals have not gone away.

Against this background, one can imagine the surprise of the local residents when an Incinerator crew of county inmates arrived on July 16th and 17th of this year without notice and cleared a wide path through the briars of the cliff ledge. Telephone calls were made to the

City, including Timothy Sheridan of Constituent Services, demanding an explanation.

On July 22, a group of concerned residents met at Constituents Service in City Hall with Maureen Corcoran. Mr. Sheridan was absent. She introduced us to a property owner, Eve Krukis, who owns the three aforementioned "land-locked" empty lots on the cliff that apparently have no easement to Ogden Avenue. We were informed that the City workers had cleared the wide path on the ledges, exposing all of the bordering homes to danger, so that the owner might access her lots and start a residential garden.

It should be noted that although it was not expressly stated, there was an implication at this meeting that the City was also planning a driveway for Ms. Krukis.

On July 23, there was a visit to the site by Timothy Sheridan and Maureen Corcoran of Constituent Services with neighbor Doris Brown of Ogden Avenue. Ms. Brown was notified that the existing road barrier would be removed to provide pedestrian access to these properties.

On July 24, there was a second visit to the area by Mr. Sheridan and Ms. Corcoran and this time accompanied by Councilman Bill Gaughan and City Engineer Nissen. Also present were Ms. Brown and resident Len Davis. At this second inspection, Ms. Brown was informed that once the barrier was removed that two fences with gates would be erected on the northern and southern ends of the cliffs to secure the area against criminal activity. It should be noted that at this meeting, Mr. Nissen made several comments to the effect that it was probably impossible to build a safe road here, especially at the steep, narrow and unstable southern end near Mountain Road.

On July 27, constituent Daniel D'Errico whose Ogden Avenue property borders one of the lots in question, received a phone call from Mr. Gaughan. He informed Mr. D'Errico that there was a proposal to erect a staircase at the upper bend in Mountain Road that would provide access to this area. A locked gate could be erected at the top of these stairs so that the gardening landowner could have access to her property with her own key.

From the above chronology, it is clear that the City has no specific or concrete plan. It appears that the City is scrambling on a course of action that will be the least opposed by the residents. The residents are very concerned about the initial plan of creating a driveway from either Mountain Road or Griffith Street for access to these lots. Mr. Nissen has categorically stated that building a driveway to these lots would be unfeasible from both an engineering and a financial standpoint. However, the City has not notified us as to the viability of that plan and whether it is a dead issue.

RNA also questions the City's wisdom in even contemplating a plan to erect a fence with a personal locked gate. The very idea of a locked gate in this area is unrealistic. As described above, the area is vulnerable because of its lack of police patrols and overhead lighting. And once Mountain Road is reopened it would take no time at all before hoodlums discovered this spot and attempted to gain entry by either scaling the fence or breaking the locked gate.

The gate plan raises another question : who would be responsible for maintaining this area, including the fences and locks -- the City or the individual property owner with the key? After the hoodlums have broken the locks five or six times, how rapidly will the City or the absentee landowner respond to fix them? And who will hold the keys for these gates? After all, if this is a public road, should not everyone on Ogden Avenue with property bordering this area require a key? And if one neighbor fails to lock the gate and a crime is committed or someone falls off the cliff, who is liable? That person? Jersey City?

And what about the steps to be built on Mountain Road? If built on public land, perhaps they must be wheelchair accessible.

The scrambling, thoughtless approach now taken by the City should cease. If there is a legitimate need for said plan, the City should evaluate it before executing it -- including notice and consultation with the affected residents.

Finally, another concern of the RNA is the apparent effort on the part of the City to extend special privileges to one individual, Ms. Krukis. It is odd that it has taken the City over ten years to renovate Mountain Road -- the site of muggings, mayhem and murder -- and reopen it for the community as a whole. Yet for this one individual, the City is willing to tear down a safety barrier, build a roadway, erect gated fences and build a stairway up a cliff. And all this for a person whose only stated interest is "gardening".

Research by one of our members has revealed that Ms. Krukis, who is a real estate agent and speculator, has recently listed these properties for sale with "driveway access". Therefore it is apparent that her real motive is to make a quick profit by reselling the unimproved land to developers. Ms. Krukis' plan has the potential of ruining our neighborhood by exposing it to crime and increased overdensity and leaving us to deal with the problems that she has created.

As a concerted group of voting taxpayers, we feel that the actions on the part of the City initiated by the Office of Constituent Services are extremely inappropriate and unjustified. We believe that the effort and money under consideration for this one individual could be better applied to projects that would service the community as a whole and would not threaten the safety of its residents. There are numerous examples in our neighborhood such as the long overdue renovation of the eastern side of Riverview-Fisk Park and the development of a viable plan for the rehabilitation of Palisade Ave (as promised by you and Mr. Gaughan at during the last election).

There are reasonable alternatives. For example, a walking easement though 216 Ogden Avenue could be created to allow access to these lots such as in several other similarly-situated properties. Another suggestion is that the City just purchase the lots back from the current owner.

Finally a comment must be made about the way this problem was created. It appears that Timothy Sheridan of Constituent Services was approached by Ms. Krukis who demand that the City provide a road to her properties. Mr. Sheridan then took it upon himself to

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initiate this "project" without the advice or prior consultation with the appropriate City officials. More distressing is the fact that he did not provide any notice to the affected property owners of his intentions. Finally to exacerbate an already troubling situation, Mr. Sheridan, members of his office and other City officials have been less than candid and forthright when questioned by the adjacent property owners and residents about this issue.

Therefore, RNA appreciates the City's appointment of Dennis Salerno, former municipal judge and assistant corporation counsel to monitor this issue. Mr. Salerno, indicating that he had just been assigned to this issue, attended our August 11th meeting. His initial reaction was that the proposal to open this area to vehicular traffic was absurd. He said he was in the process of doing research to determine what the City's legal obligations were to Ms. Krukis and the Ogden Avenue property owners. We await his recommendations. Mr. Salerno also anticipated that Ms. Krukis would probably take the City to Court over this issue.

RNA requests that Mr. Salerno clarify what is the exact status of this cliff area. Is it a public road or is it a paper road and therefore just public lands? We believe this is a critical question and has a direct bearing on the city's obligation to provide access to these lots. We would like to have this matter defined once and for all to avoid future questions like this.

Most importantly, we want to know what specific commitments have been made to the property owner of these lots.

And finally, we want to know what the City intends to do to protect the residents if the area is open to the public.

Please inform the Riverview Neighborhood Association in writing of any plans for this area. We appreciate a written response instead of casual conversations with individual residents.

Be advised that RNA will take whatever legal action is required to protect the rights of its members, neighbors and friends.

Meanwhile, because of the path cleared by the City, strangers are returning to the cliffs. There are voices and activities at all times of the day and night. The police are not patrolling. After years of enduring crime from the closed Mountain Road, this creation of another haven for illicit activity is not acceptable.

After reviewing the above concerns, RNA hopes that the City will reconsider its actions and stop any plans to open this area.

Vito Brunetti, Chair
August 14, 1998

Dear RNA:

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter to Mayor Schundler dated August 14th regarding Block 750, Lots 65, 66, and 67. Your letter states inaccuracies and unfounded information. At no time were the residents of Ogden Avenue ever told that the property in question was going to have a roadway installed. Several scenarios were discussed with regards to this property but no final resolution was agreed upon. During the July 23rd visit to the property at which Doris Brown and Len Davis were present, the erecting of a fence was discussed and agreeable to Doris and Len.

The land owner of the three lots in question, Block 750, Lots 65, 66, 67, informed me that they needed access to their property. Upon showing me the path cut by them, they then asked since it was city property if we would widen the path. Naturally, when we are asked to groom city property, we try to accommodate the constituent.

Upon further investigation, we discovered that the property was not sold to the Krukis' (as I was led to believe) but rather the lien, which was then foreclosed on by the Krukis' this would make them responsible to find access on their own. We at no time even discussed putting a roadway to these lots, with the Krukis', only a path for accessibility in which we originally thought we were responsible.

At the August 11th meeting, some of these questions you are asking in this August 14th letter, received August 18th, were already answered. Prior to the meeting of August 11th, at my request Dennis Salerno, Gerry Nissen, Maureen Corcoran, and myself discussed the city's responsibility. Since I had a previous meeting already scheduled, I asked Dennis to explain, that since the Krukis' bought the lien from the City and not the property we were not responsible for their access. However, since we had already expanded the path the Krukis' cut, the decision of the July 23rd site visit (by the way I arranged) that Gerry Nissen, Bill Gaughan, Maureen Corcoran, myself and what I thought to be representatives of the R.N.A., Doris Brown and Len Davis, would be to erect a fence on the north and south sides of the city's property with a gate in both fences. We came to this decision because of the community's concern that the property was now accessible for criminal element. As described by Gerry Nissen, the fence would extend from Doris Brown's property to the edge of the cliff, and on the south side from the property line just north of the three lots in question, to the cliff's edge.

We at no time discussed putting a roadway to these lots, only a pathway for accessibility. Gerry Nissen's comments on a roadway were purely answers to a question posed at that site visit.

Instead of throwing stones and blame and inciting rumors lets come up with a viable solution which has always been my intention.

Vito, if the fence is not the solution, what is?

To say we have been less then candid is absolutely incorrect. I have personally arranged and attended site visits, meetings, discussions and also sent representatives to your neighborhood meetings to communicate exactly what was transpiring to residents of Ogden Avenue. We have answered every question honestly and have further investigated the issue to come to amicable solution. We who attended the site visit all seem to be of the same opinion which would include Doris and Len that the fence was the solution.

To answer the final questions of your letter, the city did not appoint Dennis Salerno, I personally asked Dennis to do some legal research on this matter in hopes of coming up with a solution for the community. There have been no specific commitments made to the

property owners of these lots other than the original agreement of the July 23rd visit of putting fences with gates on the north and south sides. Since we have never planned on opening the area up to the public, then fences which will be erected will surely provide more protection than the weeds to the residents. We will certainly provide you with any additional plans in writing and when visiting with residents who are assumed to be representatives of the R.N.A. we will be sure to put those communications in writing as well, to avoid the current rumor mill. As to the path only widened by the city, the fences should eliminate the voice activities that you say ar heard at all times of day and night.

In closing, I think the outcome of this matter, is of a key importance, not pointing fingers or trying to place blame, and if the fences with gates are not the answer, what is?

Timothy Sheridan, Constituent Services
August 19, 1998

Dear RNA:

I hope you are in receipt of my last letter dated August 20, 1998.

Since sending that letter I have been informed that Councilman Bill Gaughan spoke with Doris Brown and Len Davis about the fence issue. During that conversation, it was agreed that there would be a fence on the north and south sides without gates. This solution seemed to be one that Doris, Len, And Mr. Gaughan found amicable. Please let me know if this solution is an amicable one for the group.

We are however exploring another option with our Law Department that has been mentioned to Bill Gaughan with regards of the city making a gift of the plots of land behind each lot to the owners of each house.

I spoke with the Tax Assessor's Office, there would not be an increase in tax assessment. This solution would enable each property owner the ability to erect a fence between each plot thus making it much less accessible for crime element.

We would be happy to discuss further points of interest in reference to this last proposal and answer any other questions you may have.

Timothy Sheridan, Constituent Services
August 21, 1998

MEMORIES OF SUMMER In HOBOKEN

The summer's were hot and we had only fans to cool off, but we had a good time. The firemen would turn on the sprinklers to cool off. Or we would walk up to River Street and watch the ships come in at the Holland-American Lines. Sometimes we helped the people off and we got big tips. They probably were big movie stars in those days, we didn't care.

A lot of the guys went swimming off the pier into the Hudson in between the docked ships, not realizing it was unsafe.

We also stayed up real late, too hot to sleep or some put out blankets on the fire escapes and slept out. We thought we were lucky to do this. We didn't complain about being bored, we knew soon it would be over and back to school.

Jack Rea

"A SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER"
ALL CITY TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Singles Competition
Free and Open to all Jersey City Residents

A Champion will be determined on each of the following age groupings:

8 - 11	**19 - 34**
12 - 14	**35 - 54**
15 - 18	**55 & OVER**

To register, call the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 am to 4:30 pm
(201) 547 - 4582

The Tournament will begin the week of September 14, 1998.
Sites and schedules will be determined according to registration. Your Site and schedule will be provided to you once determined.

Come take part in this exciting and fun event. We'll see you there.

☞ RECYCLE
YOUR GARBAGE AND DISPOSABLES - IT'S THE LAW!

The following recyclable materials are collected every Wednesday:

PAPER: NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, CARDBOARD, GIFT BOXES, JUNK MAIL, SCHOOL PAPER, OFFICE PAPER, COMPUTER PAPER, TELEPHONE BOOKS.

PLASTICS: SODA BOTTLES, MILK CONTAINERS, WATER CONTAINERS, FOOD BOTTLES.

GLASS: SODA & BEER BOTTLES, FOOD JARS.

CANS: ALUMINUM, TIN, STEEL (NO CHEMICAL OR PAINT CANS).

For more information, call the Jersey City Incinerator Authority at **432-4645**.

Bulletin board

BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY RECOVERY
to two of RNA's most active and outspoken members
Katherine Keens and **Cathy Packard.**

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Neighborhood Improvement District (NID):

North Six Mgr. Ronald Clemente: 547-4974, ext. 8015. (His District includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith St.)

North Seven Manager Laura Petersen: 547-4974, ext. 8021. (Her District includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith to Congress Streets.)

PSEG LIGHTING: To report a non-functioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call **Pete Magin, PSEG street light manager at 330-6572.**

From Valerie's Kitchen:

ARTICHOKE RICE SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

1 pkg. chicken rice roni (cooked)
1/2 green pepper chopped
8 - 10 olives with pimento (wash, if salty)
1/3 cup of mayonnaise
salt and pepper to taste
3 green onions/scallions, chopped
1/4 tsp. curry powder
one jar of artichoke hearts

1) Mix onions, peppers, olives, artichoke hearts with cooked rice.
2) Add salt and pepper to taste. Mix well.
3) In separate bowl, mix mayonnaise, oil and curry powder.
4) Pour into rice mixture and mix well.
5) Refrigerate over night.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Tell us how you feel about the quality of life on your block or in your neighborhood. Have your voice heard! Send all articles, comments and/or recipes to 232 Ogden Ave. The next deadline is **Friday, September 25th.**

MEMBERSHIP DUES

RNA's annual membership of **$7.00** entitles you to twelve issues of our newsletter, and voting privileges in RNA, if you live within our boundaries. Support our community by paying your dues at the next meeting, or sending a check, payable to RNA, to 232 Ogden Ave. (Contact Jack Rea, if any paid member has not received their newsletters or a membership card.)

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado, David Murawinski** or **Mark Conroy and Keith Armstrong** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit at 547-5391.** All calls will be strictly confidential.

A **Community Service Survey** form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT
282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307
547-5350: Front Desk
547-5719: Neighborhood Task Force

Community Service Survey

Name:_____
Address:_____
Home Phone:_____
Block Association:_____
Complaint & Observations for the period of_____

List the Locations for the following Problems:

Disorderly Groups:_____
Public Nuisances: _____
Narcotics Activity:_____
Unsafe/Unhealthy Sites: _____
Suspicious Activity:_____
Heavy Trucking: _____
Auto Thefts:_____
Burglaries:_____
Prostitution: _____
Gambling:_____
Other:_____

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR: Vito Brunetti
CONTRIBUTORS: Greg Brickey, Allison Ferrari-Fontana, Patrick Moore, Kathy Packard, Jack Rea, Madeline Rea, Valerie Rea, Maria Tuzzo, Rosemary Venter
GRAPHICS: Russell Pratt, Raquel Sweeney
CIRCULATION: Jack Rea, Carol Rebelowski, Maria Tuzzo

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING on September 8th at 7:15 PM at the HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER.

M. SASSO
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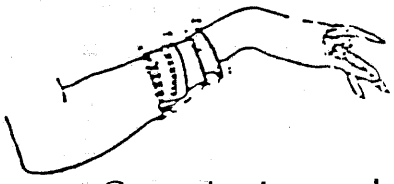

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JERSEY CITY,S FAMILY FUN CENTER

401 PALISADE AVENUE
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JERSEY CITY

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912 Kennedy Boulevard Union City, NJ 07307

Office 201 330-1899
Fax 201 330-1434

MEET MAYOR BRET SCHUNDLER
at OUR NEXT MEETING ON
Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 8th AT 7:15

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

SCHOOL'S OPEN:
WATCH OUT FOR
OUR CHILDREN
DRIVE CAREFULLY

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

BULK RATE
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JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT # 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Vice-chairperson

Allison Ferrari-Fontana
Secretary

Carol Rebelowski
Treasurer

Gary Kenny
Sgt. at Arms

COMMITTEES:

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

PARKS

FLEA MARKET

NEWSLETTER

COMING EVENTS ----------

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, Sept. 8th at 7:15 PM

LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) **GUEST SPEAKER:**
MAYOR BRET SCHUNDLER

2) **Membership discussion:**
   a) **Success of Summer Activities**
   b) **Planning for Fall Activities**
   c) **Suggestions, Complaints and Concerns**

3) **Police NFT Report**

FALL CLEAN-UP: Weekend of October 10th

DUMPSTERS located on South St. and Cuneo Place between Palisade and Ogden Avenues.

PLANTINGS in both our local Parks. (See Article on pg. 1).